

Remarks

Filed herewith is a Request for Continued Examination of the above captioned application, which is currently under appeal based on a Notice of Appeal and Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review filed August 22, 2006 and a Decision Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal mailed October 20, 2006. A request for five month extension of time is also enclosed herewith.

By the present Amendment, the applicant amends certain claims including independent claims 1 and 11, cancels claims 67-84, and adds new claims 85-104. All claim amendments and new claims are supported by the specification as filed, and no new matter has been added.

In the final Office Action dated April 25, 2006, the Examiner had rejected some claims in their then-current form as obvious over a combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,732,398 to Tagawa and the Business Wire article titled "Air France Corrects and Replaces Previous Announcement," and rejected other claims as obvious over a combination of Tagawa with the Air France article and a third reference Ong-Yeoh "Golden Boutique Set to Boost MAS Revenue." For at least the reasons set forth herein, the applicant requests reconsideration of the claims as presently amended, and requests favorable treatment as to the new claims presented herein.

In the April 25, 2006 final Office Action, the Examiner argued that Tagawa teaches users purchasing travel tickets along with duty-free items from a single source, which, in Tagawa, was a kiosk. The applicant has disagreed with the Examiner's characterization of the "single source" as including a kiosk that provides access to products available from various merchants. However, for the sake of clarity, claims 1

and 11 are amended herein to clarify that the purchase is made from a single merchant, and as part of a single transaction. Tagawa does not teach or suggest customers purchasing travel tickets and duty-free items from a single merchant or as part of a single transaction. As such, the rejection over Tagawa is traversed.

Moreover, and in response to other prior art relied upon and arguments made by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that the methods as claimed are not conventional “buy one get one free” offers. Rather, per claims 1 and 11 as amended, a customer needs to select a specific travel ticket and a specific duty free item, and to make payment for same as part of a single transaction from the same merchant, before the merchant accepts payment and delivers same to the customer. As described in the present application, this provides a close, functional relationship between the purchase of these two items which allows, for example, customers to purchase both items from a single merchant as part of a single transaction at a lower price than each item would require individually. None of the prior art references teaches such a methodology.

In addition, new independent claims 86 and 96 contain features also not taught or shown in the prior art. For example, claim 86 contains the step of a merchant purchasing international travel tickets and duty free items from third parties, computing prices for combinations of tickets and items, and offering the combinations to consumers for purchase. The prior art references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest this claimed invention. Nor do the prior art references teach or suggest the steps in claim 96 of offering international travel tickets and duty free items to customers, requiring customers to select a travel ticket and duty free to obtain in combination with one

another, and selling the selected travel ticket(s) and duty free item(s) to the customer in a single transaction. Allowance of new claims 86-104 is therefore respectfully solicited.

For at least these reasons, favorable consideration of pending claims 1, 2, 4-12, and 14-20 and new claims 85-104 is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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